



City Church  
PHILADELPHIA

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Sunday November 8, 2020

Wilderness & Wisdom: The Book of Numbers  
“False Worship in the Wilderness”

# Welcome.

Thanks for joining us today for worship. City Church and Liberti Center City are partnering to offer this worship service and other online points of gathering during this season of physical distancing.

Our worship is “liturgical.” The Greek word “leitourgia” means a public work, the work of the people. Liturgical worship begins with God’s call upon us, his meeting with us, speaking among us, and ministering to us. The flow of our liturgy aims at drawing us further into the life of the Trinity and then moving us outward into our world.

Please visit our websites, [www.citychurchphilly.com](http://www.citychurchphilly.com) and [www.libertichurch.org](http://www.libertichurch.org), for more information about worship, help, and connecting during this season. We are glad you are joining us and look forward to meeting you.

— The Pastoral Staff  
*Tuck Bartholomew, Chris Currie, Scott Jennings*

## Reflection

In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship.

- David Foster Wallace, "This Is Water"

## Church Calendar

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS

EPIPHANY

LENT

EASTER

PENTECOST

**ORDINARY TIME**

We observe a season of Ordinary Time from Pentecost until Advent, which we count as weeks following Pentecost. During this time we especially remember the lives and actions of Jesus' followers. We think about how the first Christians lived their lives, and how we should live ours today. This season of Ordinary Time takes up half the year and it doesn't offer big exciting festivals such as Christmas or Easter. As a result, as one Sunday follows another, this season can begin to feel, well, ordinary.

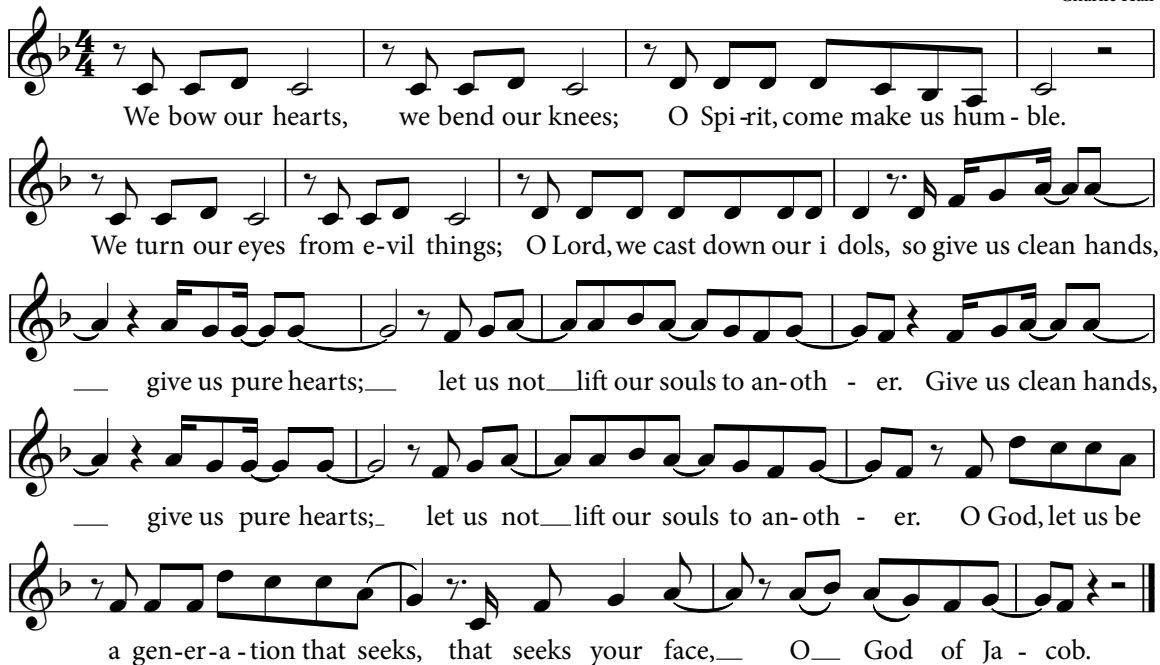
# Welcome

- Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

## Opening Song

*Give Us Clean Hands*

Charlie Hall



We bow our hearts, we bend our knees; O Spi-rit, come make us hum - ble.  
We turn our eyes from e-vil things; O Lord, we cast down our i dols, so give us clean hands,  
— give us pure hearts; — let us not — lift our souls to an-oth - er. Give us clean hands,  
— give us pure hearts; — let us not — lift our souls to an-oth - er. O God, let us be  
a gen-er-a - tion that seeks, that seeks your face, — O — God of Ja - cob.

CCLI #2060208 ©2000 worshiptogether.com songs

## Opening of Worship

Grace, mercy, and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All** And also with you.

Hear the word that the Lord speaks to you,  
O house of Israel:

**All Do not learn the way of the nations.**  
For the customs of the peoples are false:  
**a tree from the forest is cut down;**  
people deck it with silver and gold;  
**they fasten it with hammer and nails**  
**so that it cannot move.**

Their idols are like scarecrows, and they cannot speak;  
**they have to be carried, for they cannot walk.**

Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil,  
**nor is it in them to do good.**

But the Lord is the true God;

**he is the living God and the everlasting King.**

He is the one who formed all things,  
and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance;  
**the Lord of hosts is his name.**

*from Jeremiah 10*

## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

### Doxology

Francis of Assisi, Jonathan Gilley



1. All ye who are of ten der heart, for- giv ing oth- ers take your part. Sing his prais- es,  
2. Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and worship him with hum ble ness! O\_\_ praise him,



Alle-lu ia! Ye, who long pain and sor- row bear, praise God and on him cast your care! O  
Alle-lu ia! Praise, praise the Fa ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi- rit, three in one, O



praise him! O\_\_ praise\_\_him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him! O\_\_ praise\_\_him! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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*In the public reading of the word of God and its exposition in the sermon, God shares the story of his saving mission in Jesus, encouraging us to join in that mission and orienting us again to his priorities.*

## The Word of God

*Old Testament reading: Numbers 25:1-18*

<sup>1</sup>While Israel was staying at Shittim, the people began to have sexual relations with the women of Moab. <sup>2</sup>These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. <sup>3</sup>Thus Israel yoked itself to the Baal of Peor, and the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel. <sup>4</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the chiefs of the people, and impale them in the sun before the Lord, in order that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel." <sup>5</sup>And Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you shall kill any of your people who have yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor."

<sup>6</sup>Just then one of the Israelites came and brought a Midianite woman into his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the Israelites, while they were weeping at the entrance of the tent of meeting. <sup>7</sup>When Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he got up and left the congregation. Taking a spear in his hand, <sup>8</sup>he went after the Israelite man into the tent, and pierced the two of them, the Israelite and the woman, through the belly. So the plague was stopped among the people of Israel. <sup>9</sup>Nevertheless those that died by the plague were twenty-four thousand. <sup>10</sup>The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>11</sup>"Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the Israelites by manifesting such zeal among them on my behalf that in my jealousy I did not consume the Israelites. <sup>12</sup>Therefore say, 'I hereby grant him my covenant of peace. <sup>13</sup>It shall be for him and for his descendants after him a covenant of perpetual priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the Israelites.'" <sup>14</sup>The name of the slain Israelite man, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri son of Salu, head of an ancestral house belonging to the Simeonites. <sup>15</sup>The name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi daughter of Zur, who was the head of a clan, an ancestral house in Midian.

<sup>16</sup>The Lord said to Moses, <sup>17</sup>"Harass the Midianites, and defeat them; <sup>18</sup>for they have harassed you by the trickery with which they deceived you in the affair of Peor, and in the affair of Cozbi,

the daughter of a leader of Midian, their sister; she was killed on the day of the plague that resulted from Peor.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel reading:* John 2:13-17

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Reflection

*“False Worship in the Wilderness”* – Rev. Tuck Bartholomew

## Offering and Presentation of Gifts

If you’d like to contribute to the work of either of our churches, you can do so at:

[citychurchphilly.com/give](http://citychurchphilly.com/give) or [libertichurch.org/give](http://libertichurch.org/give)

# Offertory Song

## Break Us

Kelley McRae

1. As I sit in the still-ness of the dark-est night and I lis-ten to the  
2. When I stand in the pre-sence of a ho - ly God, and I flee, and I  
3. When I leave this world and I'm home-ward bound to a hea-ven and  
thoughts of my heart. this heart that is bro - ken and the  
co - ver my face, this heart, hard with shame, yet you  
earth that's re - made, this world full of sor - row will be  
wounds that re - o - pened: O break it by the po-wer of your grace.  
still call my name: O you break me by the po-wer of your grace.  
glo - ry to - mor - row; he'll re-make it by the po-wer of his grace.  
Break us by the po-wer of your grace, O Lord, won't you break us by the  
pow'r of your grace. Break us, re - make us, don't  
let the sor - row take us; O break us by the po-wer of your grace.

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## Creed

*All* I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## Prayers

Merciful Lord,  
strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit,  
that we may live as a royal priesthood and a holy nation.  
Keep us from worshipping those things which cannot save,  
and let us bear witness to your loving redemption.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

*All* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Having offered  
ourselves up in faith  
through the creed,  
affirming the power  
of God's redemption,  
we lift up the  
church, our world,  
and other needs to  
God in prayer for  
his provision and  
healing.*

With your own strong hand,  
intervene in this broken world, full of injustice and violence.  
Give to the world and its peoples  
the peace that comes from above,  
that they may find Christ's way of freedom and life.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Hold in your embrace all who witness to your love in the  
service of the poor and needy;  
all who minister to the sick and dying;  
and all who bring light to those in darkness,  
even in the hidden corners of daily life.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Touch and heal all those whose lives are scarred by sin  
or disfigured by pain,  
that, raised from death to life in Christ,  
their sorrow may be turned to eternal joy.  
Hasten the day when many will come  
from east and west, from north and south,  
and feast together in your kingdom.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All** Lord, hear our prayer.

Now gathering our prayers into one, let us pray boldly as our  
Savior has taught us:

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

## Confession of Sin

Turn to us again, O God our Savior,  
and let your anger cease from us:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All** Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,  
that glory may dwell in our land:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

*Silence is kept.*

## Words of Comfort and Assurance of Pardon

May the God of love  
bring you back to himself,  
forgive you your sins,  
and assure you of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

## Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All** And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## GOD SANCTIFIES US TO HIMSELF

*Throughout Scripture,  
when people find  
themselves in God's  
presence, they sense  
how far short they fall  
and become aware of  
their own shame and  
brokenness. In the  
same way, we make  
a confession of sin,  
both as a community  
and also silently as  
individuals. In this,  
we remember that  
God is always ready,  
by his mercy and  
grace, to forgive us.*

GOD STRENGTHENS US  
AT HIS TABLE

*Communion, also called the Lord's Supper, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ to participate. If you are not a follower of Jesus or are not prepared to share in the meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church.*

## Communion

The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**All** We lift them to the Lord.

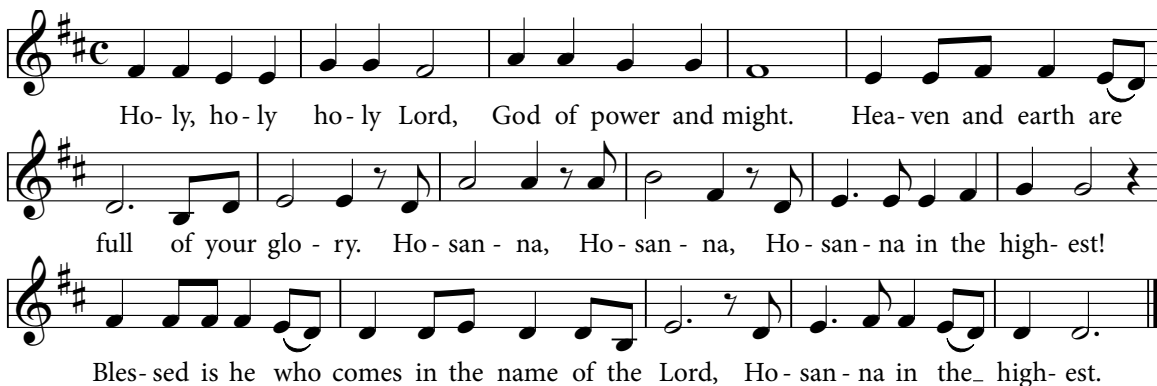
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** It is right to give thanks and praise.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

We indeed give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, for you are the hope of the nations, the builder of the city that is to come. Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner, and gives dignity to the despised. In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity. Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation, we glorify your name, forever praising you and singing:

### Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Hea - ven and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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*The minister concludes the Eucharistic Prayer.*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All** Amen.

*The minister speaks the Words of Institution.*

## Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All** Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**All** Therefore, let us keep the feast.

## Prayer after Communion

**All** Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;  
and, because without you  
our human frailty cannot but fall,  
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,  
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# Blessing and Sending

*All Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

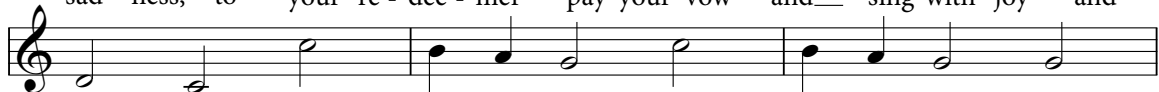
Johann Schütz, Bohemian Brethren's Gesangbuch



1. All praise to God, who reigns a-bove, the God of all cre -  
2. What God's al-migh - ty pow'r hath made his gra-cious mer - cy -  
3. I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, O, hear my -  
4. Ye who con-fess Christ's ho - ly name, to God give praise and -  
5. Then come be-fore his pre-sence now and ba-nish fear and -



- a - tion, the God of won - ders, pow'r, and love, the God of our sal -  
kee - peth; by morning dawn or eve-ning shade his watch-ful eye ne'er  
cal - ling! For death he gave me life in - deed and kept my feet from  
glo - ry! Ye who the Fa - ther's pow'r pro-claim, to God give praise and  
sad - ness; to your re - dee - mer pay your vow and sing with joy and



-va - tion! With heal - ing balm my soul he fills, the  
slee - peth; with - in the king - dom of his might, lo,  
fal - ling. For this my thanks shall end - less be; O  
glo - ry! All i - dols un - der - foot be-trod, the  
glad - ness: though great dis - tress my soul be - fell, the



God who ev' - ry sor - row stills, to God all praise and glo - ry!  
all is just and all is right, to God all praise and glo - ry!  
thank him, thank our God, with me, to God all praise and glo - ry!  
Lord is God! The Lord is God! To God all praise and glo - ry!  
Lord, my God, did all things well, to God all praise and glo - ry!

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## Benediction

May Christ, who makes saints of sinners,  
raise and strengthen you  
that you may transform the world;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and remain with you always.

**All** Amen.

## Dismissal

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our  
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**All** Thanks be to God.

## Announcements

- **Join us this week in Rhythms of Renewal** as we cultivate the virtue of courage through the practice of advocacy. Read more at [citychurchphilly.com/rhythms](http://citychurchphilly.com/rhythms) or [libertichurch.org/rhythms](http://libertichurch.org/rhythms)

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Christopher McDonald: keyboards, voice

Bethany Danel Brooks: piano, voice

Joshua Stamper: bass

Mike Szekely: drums

LIBERTI



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